

NEW BLACKBERRY VARIETIES

By George L. Slate



Bailey

About natural size

BAILEY

THE Bailey blackberry originated from a cross made in 1929, but owing to a lost label, the parentage is not known. It was introduced in the fall of 1950 by the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station,
Cornell University
Geneva, N. Y.

Association, Inc., Geneva, N. Y. Bailey was named in honor of Dr. L. H. Bailey, formerly Horticulturist and Dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, who for many years studied intensively the blackberries of North America.

Blackberry growing in New York has declined greatly in recent years. It has been difficult, nearly impossible, to secure plants of good varieties true to name. Moreover, the crops have often failed because of imperfectly developed berries caused by the feeding of the tarnished plant bug. It is also thought that many of the plants sold in recent years have been of a sterile mixture. As a result of these troubles there are very few plantings left and new ones are not being made.

The blackberry breeding project was started to provide suitable new varieties for culture in New York. In Bailey and Hedrick we have the first two varieties from this work. The tarnished plant bug has yielded to DDT and a spray applied before bloom will give nearly complete control of this formidable blackberry pest. Blackberry growers may now plant these two varieties with a fair chance of success, and it is hoped that blackberries will again become a profitable fruit crop.

Bailey is a vigorous and productive plant that has withstood the winters with very little injury at Geneva. The prickles are no worse than those of the older varieties, but the fruit is borne out in the open where the pickers can reach it without much trouble, and if the rows are kept narrow, the prickles will not be too troublesome.

The berries are large, attractive, moderately firm, subacid and of good quality. They ripen with or slightly after Eldorado.

Bailey is recommended for trial for market and for the home garden.

Plants tall, vigorous, upright, hardy, productive and propagating by suckers and root cuttings; primocanes stocky, furrowed, glabrous, not glaucous, but with a sugary, crystalline deposit at tips, eglandular, tinged reddish; prickles numerous, long, medium thick, strong, straight, reddish; leaflets 5, large, ovate, abruptly pointed, long, medium wide, medium green; fruit uniformly large, maintaining size well throughout the season, slightly irregular, long, cylindrical, conic at apex; drupelets numerous, medium size, glossy black, medium firm, juicy, subacid, good quality; core soft, not noticeable; ripens midseason and a few days later than Hedrick.

HEDRICK

HEDRICK blackberry (N. Y. 15827) was one of a population of 92 seedlings raised from a cross made in 1929 between Eldorado and Brewer. The New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc., Geneva, N. Y., introduced Hedrick in the fall of 1950. The name



Hedrick

About natural size

Hedrick was applied in honor of the late Dr. U. P. Hedrick, formerly Horticulturist and Director of this Station.

The plants are vigorous, productive, hardy at Geneva, and bear the fruit out in the open where it is easily reached by the pickers. Orange rust has been found in the stock of Hedrick, so that the customary precaution of prompt removal and destruction of infected plants is necessary.

The berries are large, moderately firm, glossy, and attractive. The flavor is pleasantly acid and the quality is good.

Plants tall, vigorous, upright, hardy, productive, propagating by suckers and root cuttings; primocanes stocky, shallowly furrowed, glabrous, not glaucous, sugary crystalline deposit at tips with a few very short-stalked glands, tinged reddish; prickles numerous, medium in length and thickness, strong, mostly straight, a few hooked near tip of primocane, reddish; leaflets 5, large, long oval, abruptly pointed, long, medium wide. Fruit uniformly large, maintaining size well throughout the season, irregular, medium long, cylindrical, conic at apex; drupelets numerous, medium size, glossy black, juicy, melting, sprightly, good quality; core soft, not noticeable; ripens early, or a few days before Bailey.

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